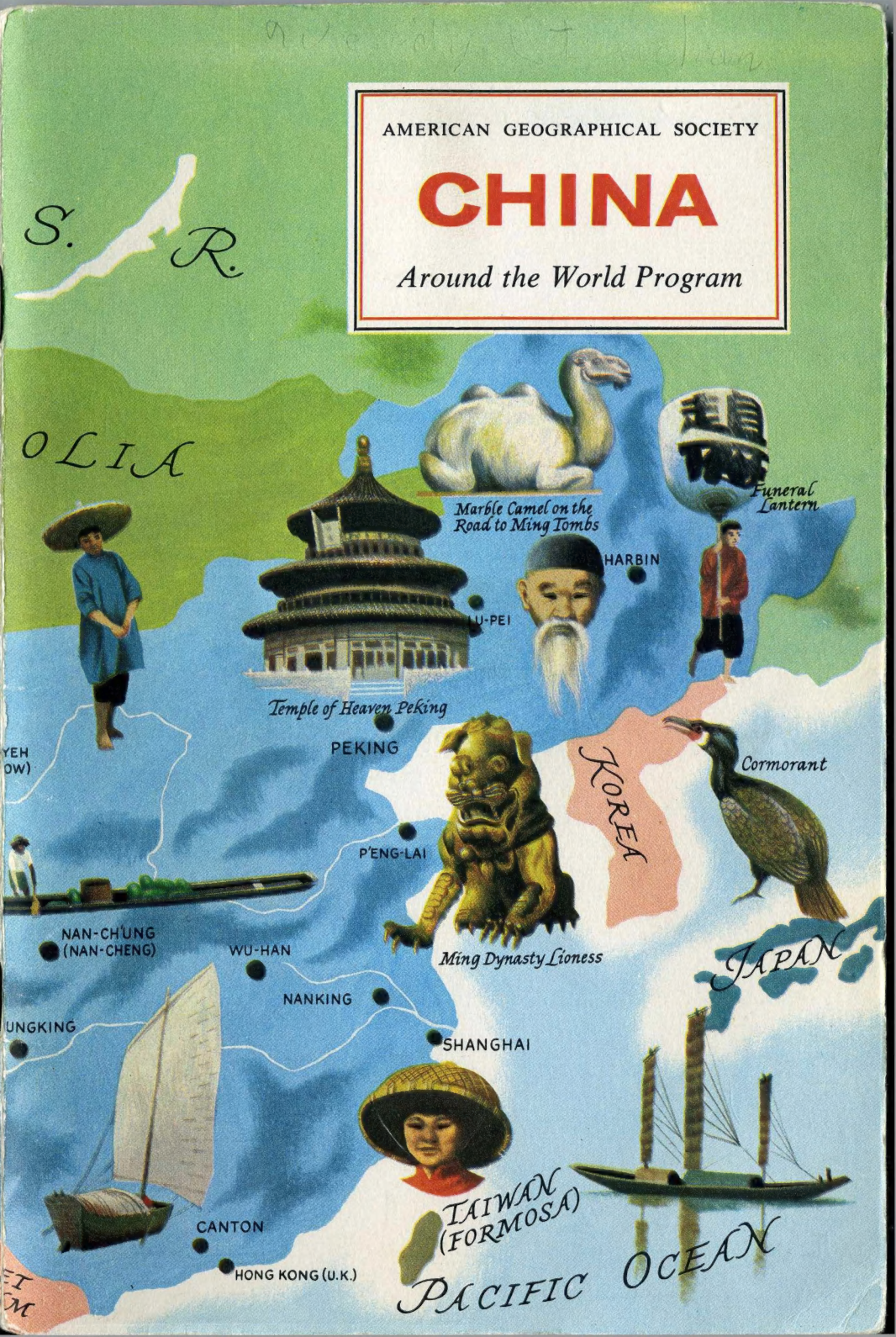
AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

CHINA

Around the World Program



CHINA

by

THEODORE HERMAN

AROUND THE WORLD PROGRAM

Prepared with the co-operation of the
American Geographical Society

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Shang warriors, first guardians of China, used horses and chariots in warfare.

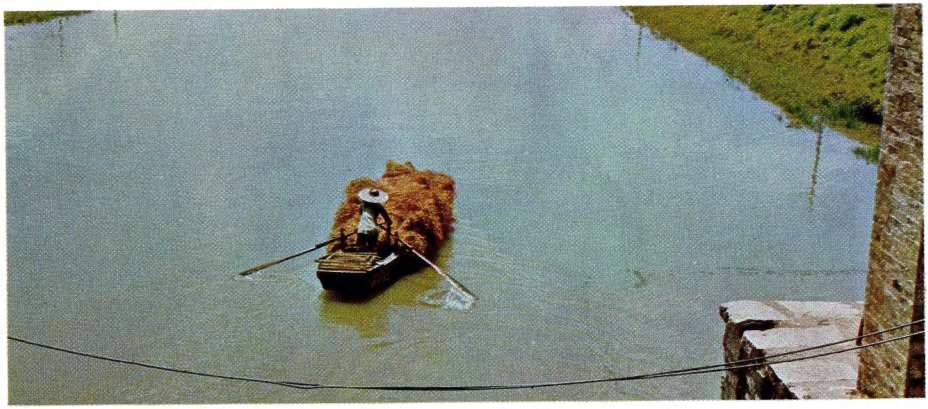
MORE THAN 150 YEARS AGO Napoleon is reputed to have said: "China is a sleeping giant. Let her sleep, for when she wakes, she will shake the world". China, the awakening giant, is indeed the China of our time, a country in the throes of rapid and widespread evolution, which is bringing new ideas, methods and goals to more than 735 million of the world's people. Yet much of the old is still there. This is an ancient land, bearing the imprint of centuries of civilization, and parts of it are among the most crowded places on earth.

Visitors usually arrive in one of the big eastern cities: Peking in the north, the capital, with a population of 6 million, Shanghai in the central region (population 7 million), or Canton in the south, with 1.6 million. Each is surrounded by a carpet of closely-packed farms and farm villages as far as the eye can see. Rivers and canals appear squeezed in by the fields, and when they flood, it is almost as if they were protesting against man's steady draining of their waters and stealing of their right-of-way.

It is not only the flat fields that are crowded. The great terraces on the hillsides, carefully banked up to give more crop land, are crowded too. And so are the streets and trains and buses in the towns and cities.

This is not to say that *all* China is densely populated. Only about one-quarter of it is lowland, and this is in the east, but seventy per cent of the people live there. The main lowlands are the plains of Manchuria, drained by the Sungari River, a tributary of the Amur (Heilung Chiang), and by the Liao Ho; the North China Plain, crossed by the 3,000-mile-long Yellow River (Huang Ho); the valley of the 3,400-mile-long Yangtze River (Ch'ang Chiang); and the delta of the West River (Si Kiang) around Canton.

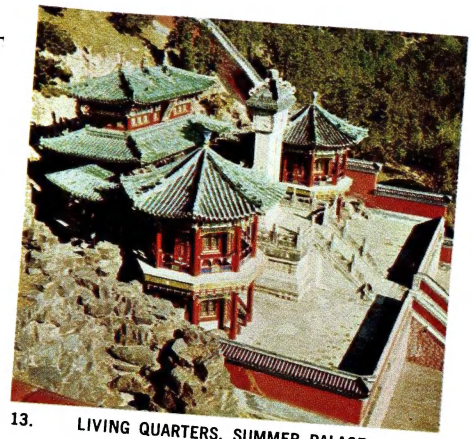
The other three-quarters of China consists of plateaux and hills and some of the loftiest and wildest mountain ranges in the world. Among the highest are the Kunlun, the Himalaya, the Tien Shan and the Altai, and these form the main watersheds of all China's great rivers.



15. A FARMER-BOATMAN ON A CANAL NEAR HANG-CHOU

With so many canals in the lower Yangtze delta, farmers carry things to market in small, flat-bottomed boats. This man's cargo is rice straw, commonly made into coarse paper in the Hang-chou area.

Small palaces and pavilions copied from famous gardens in central China grace this hillside. The buildings face south over the large Kun-ming ("Bright Cloud") Lake in the Summer Palace.



13. LIVING QUARTERS, SUMMER PALACE

According to legend, P'an Ku spent 18,000 years chiseling the earth. The parasites on his body became the human race.

The Beginnings of Chinese Civilization

WE HAVE NO IDEA of the beginning of man in China. Nor do we know where the ancestors of the present Chinese people came from, nor when and where agriculture first began there. The earliest known herding-farming groups go back to 4000 B.C., using stone and

Fresh vegetables are sold beside the city streets, as here in Peking. Because families do not have refrigerators and food canning is not widespread, people must shop every day or two, usually early in the morning when the food is fresh.

wooden implements. From 2500 B.C. there is evidence of several different cultures which spread over most of present-day China. In the north the people depended mainly on nomadic herding, with some attention to farming; in the southern mountains there were hunting peoples, and in the swampy river valleys wet-rice farmers, related to the Tai peoples of south Asia. Thus China was a giant mixing bowl of peoples with different ways of making a living.

From this mixture arose the unique Chinese civilization which remained almost unchanged for 3,000 years. The early formative period itself lasted about 1,000 years, from the Chou ("Joe") Dynasty, 1050–250 B.C., through the Ch'in, 221–207 B.C., and into the first 100 years of the Han ("Hahn"), 202–220 A.D. This 1,000-year period is important because the most distinctive Chinese ways of thinking, organizing society and making a living were worked out then. It is only in the last 100 years that any great change in these old ways has been taking place.

That period is important also because the Chinese people very early came to feel superior to all other peoples on their borders. This is apparent in the ancient name of China: the "Middle Kingdom". The Chinese were taught that there were five circles of lands of increasing savagery beyond the borders. The old written character for "country"

shows this idea of defending civilization against outsiders. It is a stylized drawing of a wall around a mouth, which stands for people, and a long-handled halberd.

5. GARDEN BRIDGE OVER SU-CHOU CREEK

The Shanghai waterfront or Bund lies along the Huang-p'u River, twenty miles south of the Yangtze. On Soochow Creek thousands of sampans and launches bring rice, vegetables and cotton into China's largest city.

From Small States to a Great Culture

From outside the Middle Kingdom, the Chou ("Joe") people, a herding group from the north-western steppe lands, overcame the Shang, who lived along the lower Yellow River. In the prosperous villages on the rich soil of the North China Plain farmers raised wheat, rice and other grains. They lived closely in touch with the spirits of nature to ensure good harvests, worshipping the plants and the soil as father and mother. Even in twentieth-century China some farmers may have small mud statues of these two inside a little shrine in a corner of a field, evidence of man's sense of helplessness before disaster, whether natural or man-made.

Into the Shang world the Chou brought their worship of Heaven, which merged into ancestor worship. This eventually led to so much

respect for the past that change became difficult. The Chou also brought in the first plough, which resulted in a rapid expansion of farm settlement on the Wei River lowland of the north-west and elsewhere on the North China Plain. As land became more productive, feudal lords under the Chou kings carved out large estates worked by farmer-tenants. With their big harvests they could support armies and officials in walled towns, and eventually attack other lords. Thus people came to put their money into farmland as the safest form of wealth.

Much of the 800-year period of Chou rule was devoted to warfare. Scholars of that time, meanwhile, were expounding ideas of how man should live in peace and order.

The most famous was certainly Confucius, c. 551–479? B.C., who taught that society works best only when everyone performs well the duties of his place in life, just as in nature everything seems to fit together. For Confucius the key man was the ruler who was to set the example for everyone else, and the ruler had only to turn back to the past to learn the proper way. Strict observance of ceremony toward

Almost one mile long, this carved and painted covered walk shields sightseers in Peking's former Imperial Palace grounds from sun and rain. Each painting on the cross beams is different. All has been carefully restored by the government.

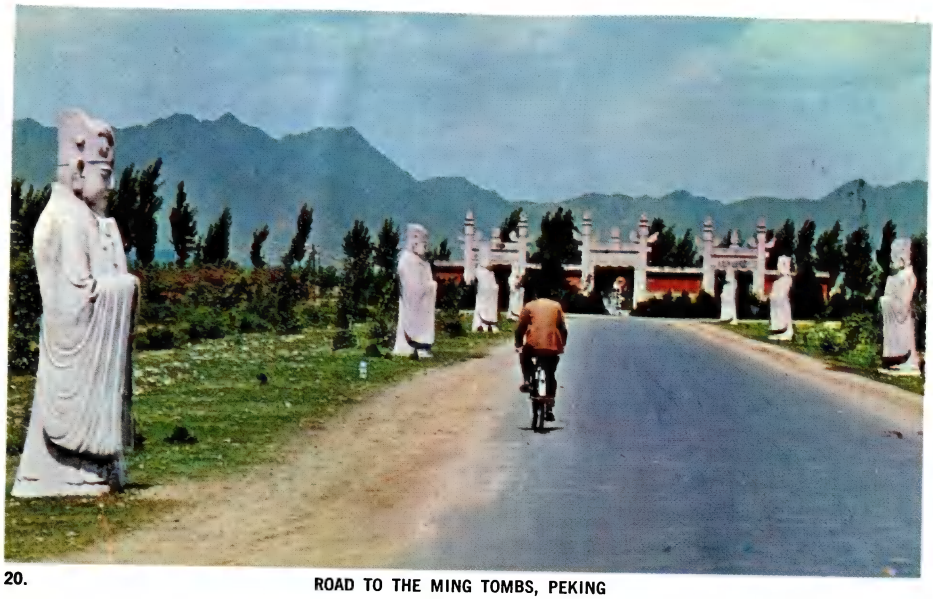
From the teachings of Lao-tzu, who may have lived before Confucius, arose Taoism, the Way. Such beliefs are now vanishing in China, but some Taoist temples still exist on lonely hills and mountains.

4. TAOIST TEMPLE NEAR HANG-CHOU

others and toward one's family ancestors was to remind everyone of how the system should work. The influence of this teaching was still strong in China at the beginning of the twentieth century, helping to divide educated from uneducated, and hindering changes of all kinds.

Another important thinker was Lao-tzu, 600? B.C. or 400? B.C., who taught quite different theories. He also wanted society to be better, but not by enforcing strict class distinctions with the educated people at the top. Instead, Lao-tzu said that man should get away from society, forget all ceremonies, and live in the countryside without any desires. In this way he would be true to his own self. If everyone did this, there would be very little trouble anywhere, because no one would be ambitious for himself or envy others.

Still another view of society was that of Shang Yang and his Legalists. To them, in the midst of warfare and general uncertainty, the answer seemed to lie in a strong dictator to whom everyone—peasants and scholars alike—would be obedient. They had not long to wait, for shortly after the Chou Dynasty fell, a strong new ruler, Shih Huang Ti of the Ch'in Dynasty, set himself up as the emperor of all China. As the great Unifier, he standardized the written language, built most of the Great Wall in the north and a good road system, and ruled through a chancellor and his officials, who were



20. ROAD TO THE MING TOMBS, PEKING

Granite statues of court attendants have stood here in silence for some 500 years before the tombs of two Ming emperors, twenty miles northwest of Peking. Pairs of stone animals also guard the road.

ruthless and efficient in their pursuit of national power and heedless of the people's welfare.

After the emperor's death in 207 B.C., the Han ("Hahn") Dynasty arose, and once again the old problem of how to rule the vast area of China had to be solved. The first Han emperor did not trust the former feudal nobles nor even his own officers. Instead, he picked his officials from among the wealthy private landowners or gentry who were already collecting local taxes and so had local power.

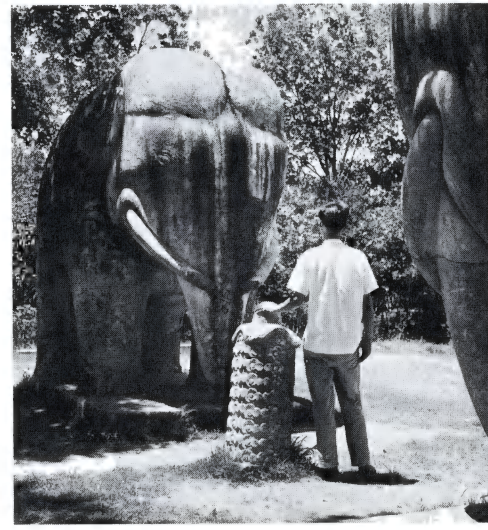
In the years that followed his death, these powerful country landlords moved into the towns and became scholars. To them the most reasonable teachings were those of Confucius, since he had elevated the educated man over all others. Thus, Confucianism became the ideal of the gentry-officials, and in 100 B.C. a government examina-

tion system was set up for all officials based on the teachings of the sage. This whole system lasted until 1905!

Over many centuries the Chinese tried many ways of governing, but never the way of democracy. They never tried a two-party system nor a many-party system. There was no thought of allowing out-of-power groups such as merchants, craftsmen or farmers to be actively represented in the government. This would have upset the rule of the gentry-scholars. Also, people believed that the emperor, as the Son of Heaven, ruled for the welfare of all.

Although one may say that China was born along the lower Yellow River, its early civilization did not remain there for long. How different this was from early Egypt along the Nile, and early Babylon along the Tigris-Euphrates; in both of these fairly level regions the lack of rain kept the farmers close to the river banks where they were sure of water for their crops.

In China the Yellow River peoples spread both north and south over the North China Plain and south along the Yangtze River and its large feeder valleys, then across the mountains to the south coast and south-western highlands. Since all of these are lands with more



Stone elephants mark the path to tombs of the early Ming emperors, late fourteenth century, in Nanking. For the next 250 years the Ming Dynasty ruled from Peking where their tombs are also found. Sightseers' names are scratched on the elephants.

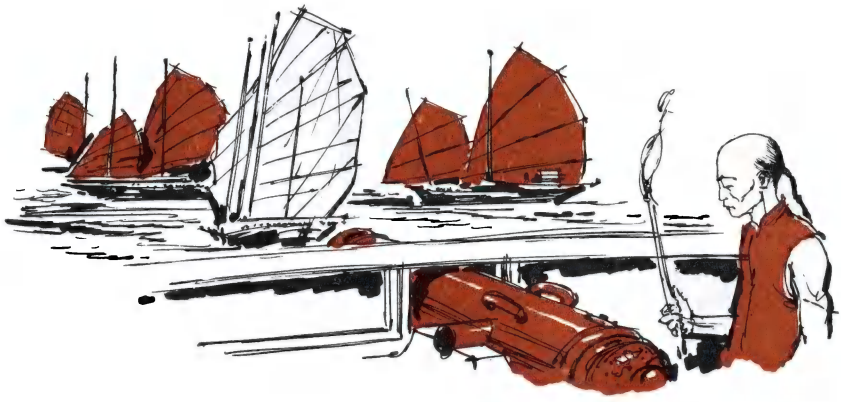
6. AN ANCIENT SUSPENSION BRIDGE

People have long used this bouncy, handmade bridge hanging from twisted bamboo cables over the old Min River irrigation system, north-west of Ch'eng-tu, at K'uan-hsien, Szu-ch'uan. When the cables wear out, new ones are made.

In the dry north-west where trees are scarce, people dig caves into the hillsides for their homes. Fields are planted on any flat place. Much of this region is now being carefully terraced, watered and forested.

rainfall and a longer growing season than the lower Yellow River, they attracted the Chinese farmers. The non-Chinese peoples were either absorbed or driven up on to less fertile mountain lands or down the narrow valleys into South-east Asia. When the precious lowlands of the river valleys became too crowded, the Chinese cut level terraces on the hillsides for their fields, a tremendous task by hand tools.

Chinese also spread out into the arid north-west where the few streams and a light rainfall make farming possible but not prosperous. Here they supplied the troops sent out to protect the frontiers and the trade caravans across inner Asia.



Ming fleets plied the world carrying Chinese goods out of and foreign imports into China in unprecedented volume.

Creating a United People

ALL THIS EXPANSION raised another problem in China. Because people were scattered far from the capital, control became weaker, and it became harder to collect taxes paid in rice or wheat. It also became harder to prevent rebellions by unhappy officials who often allied themselves with non-Chinese chiefs.

A measure of the extent of the problem is the great size of China. It is very slightly larger than the United States, with nearly 3.7 million square miles, but China extends farther north and south in its eastern quarter than does the U.S.A. The power and relative efficiency of the governmental system—for all its weaknesses—may be judged from the fact that China was able to exert a unified sway over so vast an area and over so many different peoples long before modern arms and means of communication had been developed.

HISTORICAL CHINA

MAO TSE-TUNG, HEAD OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN CHINA, WAS BORN THE SON OF A WELL-TO-DO PEASANT IN HUNAN PROVINCE. HE STUDIED IN CHANGSHA, PEKING, AND MOSCOW.

T'ANG DYNASTY 618-906 DEVELOPED THE ARTS, PRIMARILY POETRY. T'ANG POETS ARE STILL WIDELY QUOTED.

CHÍN DYNASTY 221-206 B.C. SHORT-LIVED BUT POWERFUL. GREAT WALL WAS BUILT DURING THIS ERA.

MING DYNASTY 1368-1644 FAMOUS FOR ITS PORCELAIN AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN ART AND CULTURE.

SUN YAT-SEN 1866-1925 SON OF A PROSPEROUS FARMER, SUN STUDIED IN HONOLULU WHERE HE LEARNED DEMOCRATIC IDEAS AND ADOPTED CHRISTIANITY HE BECAME THE SYMBOL OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

U. S.

HUAI

YANGTZE

YA

NEPAL

INDIA

SIKKIM

BHUTAN

BAY OF BENGAL

BURMA

VIET N

LAOS

THAILAND

S.

YUAN DYNASTY 1279-1368 FOUNDED BY KUBLAI KHAN, THIS DYNASTY SAW CHINA'S FIRST REAL CONTACT WITH THE WEST IN THE PERSON OF MARCO POLO.

R.

WORLD WAR II 1941-1945 ENDED JAPANESE RULE IN CHINA AFTER 8 YEARS.

OXGOLIAN
OPLES REPUBLIC

MANCHU DYNASTY 1644-1911 INVADERS FROM MANCHURIA ESTABLISHED THIS DYNASTY WHICH STRENGTHENED THE CHINESE CULTURE AND IMPERIAL EXPANSION.

JAPAN INFLICTED DEFEAT ON A ONCE-PROUD CHINA IN 1895, FORCING HER TO CEDE TAIWAN, THE PESCADORES, AND PART OF MANCHURIA TO JAPAN.

SUNG DYNASTY 960-1279 SCHOLARSHIP, SCIENCE AND ART FLOURISHED IN THIS ERA.

HO

SEA OF JAPAN

KOREA

YELLOW SEA

HUANG HO

SHANG DYNASTY 1790-1050 B.C. FIRST RECORDED SOCIETY IN CHINA WAS PRIMARILY AGRICULTURAL.

KOREA STRAIT

JAPAN

GTZE

CHOU DYNASTY 1060-250 B.C. EXTENDED CHINA'S POWER PAST SHANG TERRITORY. CONFUCIUS LIVED DURING THIS ERA.

EAST CHINA SEA

HAN DYNASTY 202 B.C.-220 A.D. EXPANDED CHINA'S CONTROL THROUGHOUT ASIA. CHINESE PRIDE THEMSELVES IN BEING CALLED "SONS OF HAN."

CHIANG KAI-SHEK, LIKE MAO AND SUN, WAS THE SON OF A WELL-TO-DO PEASANT. HE STUDIED IN PEKING AND JAPAN, JOINED SUN'S REVOLUTION, AND AFTER WW II VIED WITH MAO FOR CONTROL OF CHINA. LOSING, HE TOOK HIS NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT INTO EXILE ON TAIWAN.

TAIWAN

SOUTH CHINA SEA

25. VILLAGE NEAR CANTON

Old high stone houses crowd together in this village of the Pearl River delta in south China. On countless muddy streams and canals farmers and merchants use light boats to market their wares.

Furthermore, mountains, high plateaux and deserts hindered unification. The mountain chains in the eastern half of the country cross each other to divide up the terrain, while the three main rivers run from west to east instead of into a common central region, as in the Mississippi River system. Even in the eastern quarter, where seventy per cent of the people live, much of the farming area is cut into pockets not easily accessible by water transport. Land transport over mountains and long distances made trade difficult. Farmers learned to live on what they could raise and make themselves or obtain nearby. They sent to market only those products that could bring a higher price elsewhere, such as tobacco, fruit, spices, tea, vegetable oils, meat and sugar. The same was true with craftsmen, who made things for the local market but also developed special items for more distant sale,

such as silk, linen, lacquered objects of wood or leather, furniture, porcelain and paper.

With local needs satisfied, farmers and townsmen alike developed strong ties with their own district, caring little about wars, floods and famines elsewhere, but taking pride in the fame of their own scholars or the magnificence of a nearby temple. Local dialects and local gods were common, and where merchants were prosperous enough, they maintained inns in distant cities for visitors from their own district or province.

This tendency to sectionalism was offset to some extent by the pride

Chungking sits on a high point where a south-flowing river enters the Yangtze River in Szu-ch'uan. In late summer when the rivers are low, freight has to be carried up and down long flights of steps. Buildings crowd close to the river bank.

Wu-hsi, sixty miles west of Shanghai, is famous for making fine silk. After these silk umbrellas have dried, they will be coated with a special waterproof tree oil and then painted in bright designs.

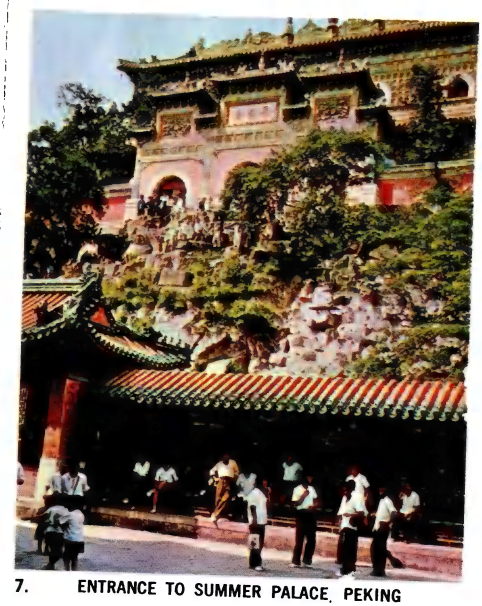
26. UMBRELLA FACTORY, WU-HSI

in being Chinese rather than barbarian. This meant belief in the Confucian society with the Son of Heaven at the top, loyalty to family ancestors, attention to the proper ceremonies, the practice of moderation and respect for education. It also meant many other things, but perhaps most typical was the use of the Chinese written language which was the same no matter what dialect was spoken. With this, one could learn the wisdom of the ancients. One could read history, philosophy, poetry, stories, personal diaries, government edicts, business letters—if one could read. Here was the common treasure house and one of the two keys that held the society together.

The other key was the body of officials and the gentry class from which they came, for they made the system work wherever they lived. It was they who directed the millions of villagers to transform the face of China by building great rectangular walled cities, where the two long streets came through heavy gates and crossed in the middle. Within the walls were located the high drum tower and the

Women gather before the front door of a cave home near the upper Yellow River in the dry north-west. Since they are very poor, they have no wooden doors or windows to keep out the cold. Little light penetrates the cave.

This tree-covered gate hides more than a square mile of man-made fairyland of lake, hills, pavilions, and gardens built in 1888 to replace a larger palace destroyed by British and French troops in 1860.



7. ENTRANCE TO SUMMER PALACE, PEKING

magistrate's or governor's offices, usually close to the city god's temple and the barracks. Branching off were markets, stores, tea shops and craftsmen's shops, often in front of the owner's home. Inns and boat landings were usually outside the walls, along with the farm villages found along the roads or reached by paths across the fields.

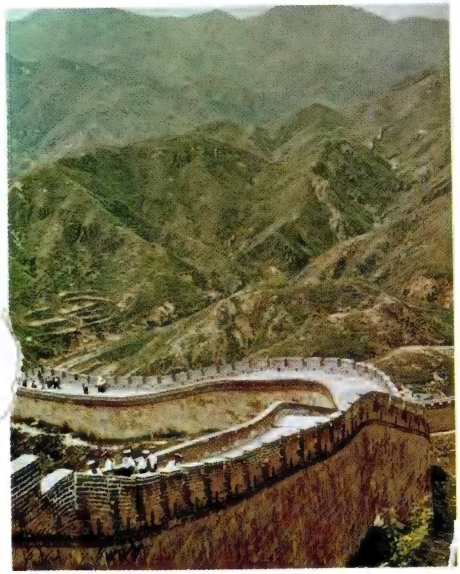
Everyone Knew His Place

THE OFFICIALS PLANNED the palaces, the temples, the roads and bridges, the memorial gates, the walls, dikes and dams, while the gentry helped the officials to conscript the workers for them. There were artisans in skilled trades, but most of the heavy work in China has been done by groups of peasants commanded to work for a given number of days on a given project. So it has been in the past, and so it is even today.

The Great Wall, begun in 500 B.C., stretches for about 1,500 miles from the sea over mountains and valleys into the far north-western desert. It stands from twenty to forty feet high, averaging twenty-five feet, built mostly of hand-cut stone and brick on top of pounded earth. It has been said that of all the things made by man, this is the only one that might be seen by someone standing on the moon. And even today when a Chinese person mentions an unpleasant task, he calls it "The Great Wall".

The long, high dikes to hold in the flooding rivers, the stone walls along the sea coast, the Grand Canal stretching 1,000 miles from central to northern China, plus thousands of miles of smaller canals, the great airfields and the roads that wind over the lofty western mountains—all were built by millions of village people using mainly hand tools.

Can it be that, unlike Westerners, the Chinese did not want to use



1. THE GREAT WALL NEAR PEKING

Built 2,500 years ago, the Great Wall begins on the Yellow Sea and ends in the lonely desert, 1,500 miles to the west. Picnickers stroll on the top which is wide enough for a car.

19. PREPARING A RICE FIELD, SHAN-HSI

Commune farmers in north China stir soil into thick mud to receive young rice shoots. South China farmers use water buffalo and harrows for this heavy task. Rice is not often grown so far north.

22. THE GRAND CANAL, SU-CHU

Over 1,000 miles long, the Grand Canal was built 1,400 years ago to carry grain, silk, etc., from Hang-chou and Sü-chow to the north. At its southern end it is crowded with small boats.

machines? Or were they not bright enough to invent them? The answer to both questions is "No", for they invented many clever ways of doing things long before the Industrial Revolution in Western Europe.

Instead, we must remember that the Chinese ways of life were established a very long time ago. The use of human workers was part of that way of life. Since more people were needed to produce more

2. YOUNG GIRLS DANCING, CANTON

Many peasant songs and dances have been revived and are now performed all over the country to make everyone proud of their heritage. The dancers' costumes are delicately embroidered.

things, large families became desirable. With more people on a small amount of land, the farmers never had enough savings to risk trying new ways. Also, there was almost no chance for farmers and craftsmen to find a new station in life. They accepted the rule of the powerful educated officials and there were no public schools teaching science.

Thus people learned to work hard with fairly simple machines. They evolved a complex hand agriculture, which gave the world citrus fruits, peaches, soy beans, silk, many flowers and shrubs and the great art of landscape gardening. Millions of skilled craftsmen have produced silk textiles of many hues and designs, fine embroidery, bronzes, porcelains, many kinds of paper, carvings of jade, ivory, stone and wood, and some of the world's greatest paintings and buildings. As we look at such things we can understand something of the rich culture that led to their creation.

The West Invades Traditional China

DURING THE CLOSING YEARS of the eighteenth century foreign merchants, missionaries, official ambassadors, and occasional adventurers from the expanding world of Europe and America became interested in establishing trade relations with the Middle Kingdom. The Chinese response was to close its doors and forbid its people to travel abroad unless on government business.

As one great emperor, Ch'ien Lung, wrote to King George III of England in 1793, "As your ambassador can see for himself, we possess all things. I set no value on objects strange or ingenious, and have no use for your country's manufactures". At the time, this seems to have been true, and the foreigners were forced to trade and deal with the Chinese officials on a small island in the Pearl River delta at Canton. However, as the Industrial Revolution in the West grew, the Europeans were not content with this system. Conflict broke out in 1839 over the Chinese destruction at Canton of a cargo of opium belonging to British merchants. In consequence, the British attacked several coastal Chinese cities, which did not possess the modern arms to resist attack.

With the defeat of China in 1842 and the Treaty of Nanking,

During the reign of Kublai Khan Marco Polo carried the world to China, and China to the world.

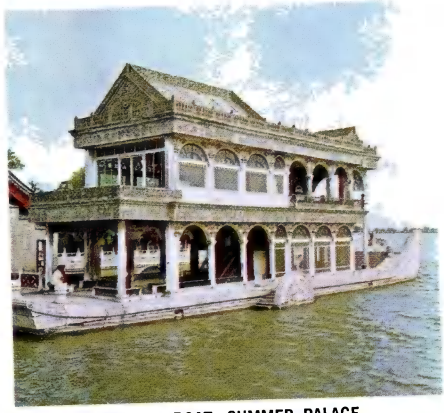
foreigners got all they asked for: five treaty ports along the coast, including Shanghai near the mouth of the great Yangtze River; the right of foreigners, including missionaries, to live in these ports under their own laws instead of under Chinese laws; the opening of China to the large-scale import of opium; and the handing over to England of the island of Hong Kong at the mouth of the Pearl River. These losses were just the start of continuous pressures and occasional wars for 100 years involving not only England, but also France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Tsarist Russia, Japan and the United States.

The Chinese imperial government was not strong enough to withstand these onslaughts. In the nineteenth century there were four major rebellions, of which the most sustained lasted from 1850 to 1864. This was the T'ai-p'ing Rebellion in the rich region of central and south China, reputed to have cost 30 million lives. When the government hired foreigners to train and arm its troops it revealed how weak its control had become.

Although rebellions were not new in China, the leading officials saw the foreigners as the main threat, and began slowly to build shipyards and arms factories. They realized that China's way of life was being disturbed by the outsiders, and forcibly disturbed, often against the

Peking duck roasted over charcoal is world-famous. Slices are dipped in special sauces and wrapped in thin, crisp bread, like a soft pancake, often accompanied with fresh green onion. Some restaurants have specialized in Peking duck for over 100 years.

The famous Shanghai waterfront or Bund, looking north into the former International Settlement. Banks, office buildings, and hotels overlook the busy scene. Much of the Bund has now been planted with trees and gardens.



18. MARBLE BOAT, SUMMER PALACE

Instead of building a navy, the old empress in 1888 built the Summer Palace outside Peking with the money. Now a teahouse, the famous marble boat reminds everyone of the missing navy.

leaders' will. This has made many Chinese view their recent history as a battle against outsiders.

At the peak of foreign privilege in China there were more than eighty cities of special residence. Such places were scattered widely throughout the country. In many of these cities were Western-style schools and colleges, hospitals and clinics, businessmen and missionaries bringing ideas that made the older educated people seem out of place. Chinese boys learned to become modern businessmen, doctors, scientists, soldiers, editors and the like. They no longer had to depend on farming or on passing long examinations based on ancient philosophy. As

Chinese girls began to attend school they too wanted to share in public life as teachers, social workers and officials—a great change from the old days of living within the home under the rule of a mother-in-law. And these newly educated families often sent their children abroad to get a Western or Japanese education.

Horsemanship, a skill stemming from the most ancient Chinese, is still a proud art of the inhabitants of Mongolia and Sinkiang.

Overthrow of Imperial China

IN THE COURSE OF ALL THIS CHANGE, the clamorous urge to overthrow the Ch'ing Dynasty as the symbol of backwardness and weakness became even more accentuated. In 1898 a group of farsighted officials close to Emperor Kuang Hsu ("Gwahng Shu") persuaded him to proclaim many new laws, to make a national constitution, to wipe out the old official examinations and to set up a host of changes in education, the police and military bodies, and in the legal system. Their aim was to reform China quickly from the top. But the opposition of the old officials was so great that they persuaded the retired empress to cancel all these reforms and rule in his place in order to preserve the old ways.

Formerly reserved for the Court, the Summer Palace, six miles north-west of Peking, is now open for everyone to enjoy its countless surprise views of man-made hills, streams, lake and gardens.

3. SUNDAY AT THE SUMMER PALACE, PEKING

The real revolution came from closer to the bottom under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, 1866–1925. He was born of a peasant family in the extreme south, and when only fourteen joined his elder brother in Honolulu. Here at a Christian missionary school he studied English, mathematics, history and religion. Returning to his village three years later, he saw at once that he no longer belonged in that kind of life. He then went to college in Hong Kong and became a Christian, earning a medical degree but not practising for more than a year.

Dr. Sun wanted to strengthen his country in those dangerous times, when even little Japan defeated China in a war (1894–95). He appealed to the authorities in Peking for reforms, especially to help the poorer people—an effort that failed. Then he organized a secret society to overthrow the imperial government by capturing local offices and arms, but between 1894 and 1911 ten such violent attempts failed, and many of his co-workers were executed. Finally on 10 October, 1911, while Dr. Sun was in the United States, some army officers in Wu-ch'ang did overpower the local commander, and from there the revolt spread; three months later the Ch'ing Dynasty, which had ruled for 268 years, formally gave up the Dragon Throne.

16. OLD ENTRANCE TO A NEW PARK, NANKING

Nanking, south of the Yangtze River and 200 miles west of Shanghai, has been a capital city at least three times. This gate in the old twenty-mile wall now leads to a park.

Tasks of the Nationalists

IT HAD TAKEN DR. SUN seventeen years to rid China of the imperial system, but unification under his own party, the Kuomintang ("Gwo min dahng"), did not even begin until sixteen years later (1927) when the Republic of China was proclaimed in Nanking. Following Dr. Sun's death in 1925, the chief of the Kuomintang or Nationalist Party was Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, born in 1886.

The tasks before him were considerable. First, he had to force regional generals or warlords and the Communists to join his own government or at least promise not to fight against it. Second, he had to organize a government that would serve the people and make China strong in relation to other nations, especially Japan. Third, he wanted

to persuade the foreign powers to give up their many special rights. Fourth was the task of teaching the people how to become democratic in government. Fifth was the aim of raising the living conditions of the people.

Despite its goals the new Nationalist government did not really represent the people, nor was it successful in promoting democracy, since no rival party was permitted. But the army did improve and industry did begin to grow, at least until 1931, when Japan seized the three north-eastern provinces, or Manchuria, outside the Great Wall, an area rich in coal, iron ore, railways and farmland. In 1935 Japan claimed control of a piece of China south of the Great Wall, including the area around Peking, and in 1937 the Sino-Japanese War began there, spreading quickly to Shanghai and then along the whole coast and far inland. It was in this long war, lasting eight years, that Nationalist China, with American help, was victorious over Japan—but it was overthrown at home.

By the end of the war in 1945 almost all the special foreign privileges had been wiped out, but China was not a democracy, and both poverty and hatred of the Nationalist government were widespread. What had happened?

Part of a memorial to the Canton Commune, an effort of the Communists in Canton to form a workers' and soldiers' government against the Nationalists. It lasted only three days, from 11–13 December, 1927, being put down with great brutality.

12. ON THE CROWDED PEARL RIVER, CANTON

Thousands of sampans ("three boards"), launches, and small steamers keep the waterfront busy, since the river is too shallow for large freighters. The skipper drives and steers his sampan with a long stern oar.

The War Against Japan, 1937–45

PART OF THE ANSWER lies in the geography of China and therefore the geography of the war. Not only do most of the people live in the eastern quarter of the country where most of the farmland is, but here also are most of the large cities, especially those with modern stores and factories, and here are most of the coal and iron ore mines. The Japanese struck this rich area first because it was closest to Japan, it was easiest to control, and it could produce the wealth which they desired. The Chinese plan, on the other hand, was to withdraw to the mountainous west for safety. Thus the Japanese forces would be thinly spread over thousands of square miles and vulnerable to attacks

by Chinese regular armies and guerrilla forces—mostly those of the Communists who were now united with the government, plus those of the Americans and other allies after 1941.

Although there was little else the Chinese could do, the result was that modern China was lost to the rest of the country for the duration of the war. Millions of people fled to the far west, but there were few factories to make goods for these people and transport was costly. Hence prices rose enormously. Many who had been wealthy down along the coast were now desperately poor. Corruption in the government became widespread. The government made no attempt to improve conditions for the farmers either by lowering rents or by giving the right to vote. Yet it was the farmers who grew the food, served in the army, and built by hand the roads and airfields in the mountainous west.

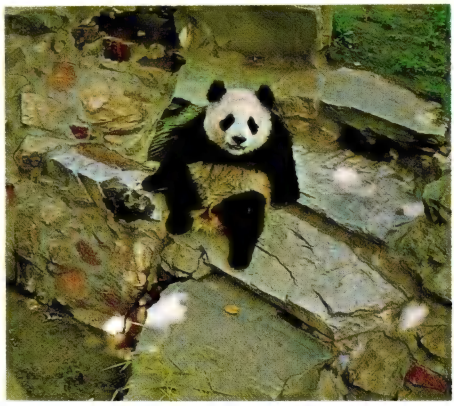
The eight years of war against Japan, however, did open the eyes of many Chinese to the size and variety of their country. Coming from the crowded cities, surrounded by vast stretches of tiny farms on

Looking down on a crowded, airless district in Canton that is now being replaced by better apartment blocks. The new project will have better air circulation, proper drainage, and safer play space for children.

flat wet rice land in the south and dry brown wheat land in the north, they walked or rode into the rugged mountains and isolated villages. They saw sparkling streams, vast sunlit forests or, in the far north-west, barren hills and deserts. They lived in walled cities and simple huts, and came to know villagers speaking a different language. Few climbed

The most fragrant tea comes from tender leaves carefully picked in spring from unbroken sprigs. The leaves are then heated and packed in airtight boxes. Some people mix in flower blossoms to obtain a special bouquet.

27. PICKING TEA NEAR HANG-CHOU



9. BABY GIANT PANDA IN PEKING ZOO

Ming-ming ("Brightness") was born in September, 1963, the first giant panda born in captivity. Playful and gentle, giant pandas live in the dense bamboo forests of western China where they eat tender plants.

Architecture flourished during the Ming Dynasty, making Peking then and now one of the most beautiful cities of the world.

the great 13,000-foot face of the great plateau of Tibet, but many settled in the weird, knobby, pine-clad mountains of the south-west. These better educated "down-river" people developed some industries and started small businesses, and so brought new ideas to the interior; but most important, they learned how vast is China and how promising in natural wealth.

In the Communist-held areas, mostly in north China, the farmers and villagers fared somewhat better than in Nationalist territory. Everyone was poor, but equally so, and Communist troops and officials gained local confidence. After the war with Japan, north China and the north-east provinces became important regions for Communist expansion, while in the coastal cities, to which the Nationalists returned, the great hopes of a New Deal were quickly shattered as the government seized hundreds of factories from Japanese, Chinese and foreign businessmen. It was not easy to grow food in the deserted fields, to send food, cotton, coal and other things to the large coastal cities with the railways and ships destroyed, nor to turn these into finished articles in worn-out factories. Government seizure delayed reopening, prices continued to rise and unemployment grew.

In 1946 the civil war began between Nationalist and Communist armies, and the exhausted, ill-fed, disillusioned people refused to support the government any longer. Thousands of government troops sur-

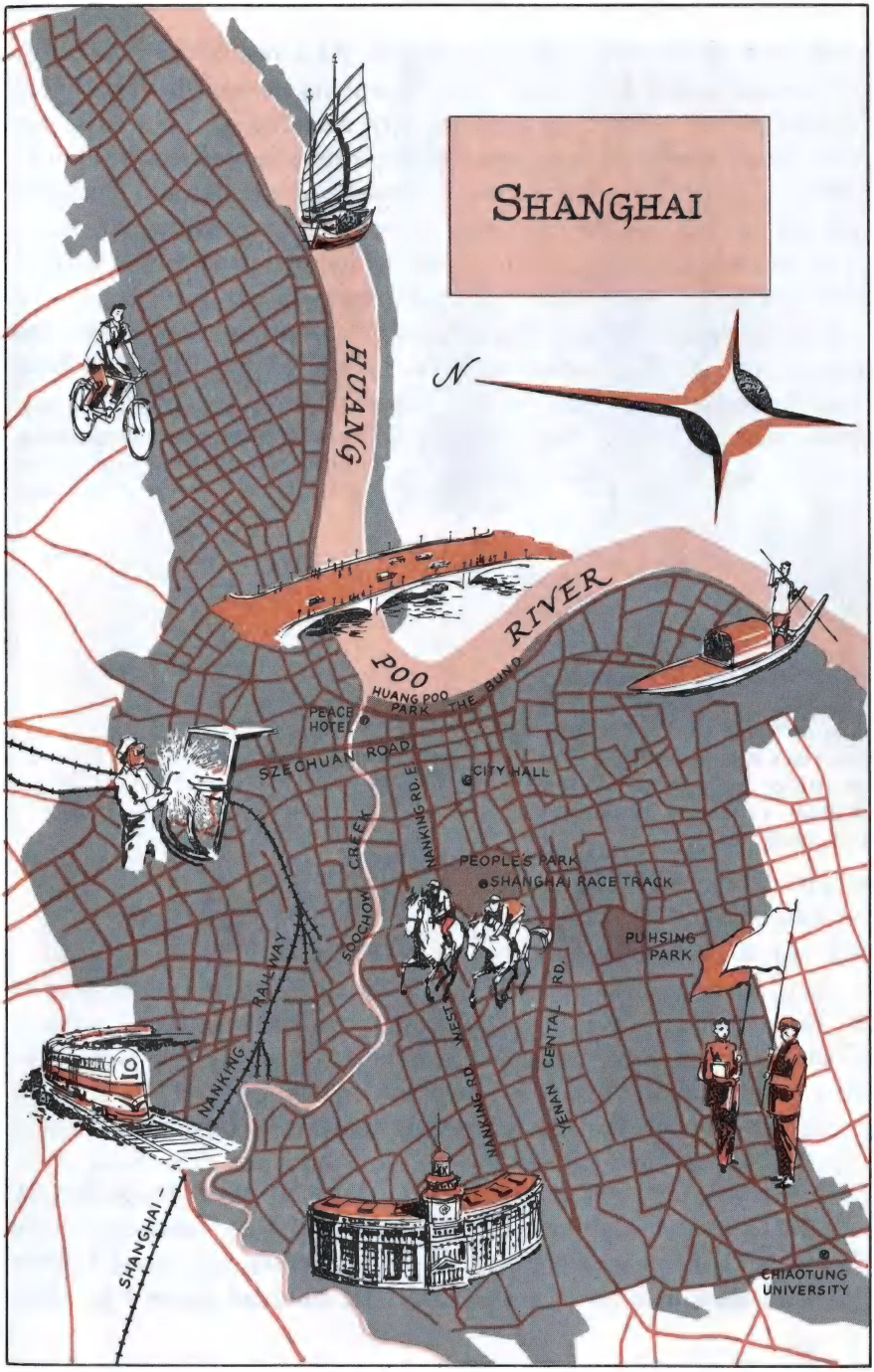
rendered to the Communists with their modern American trucks and arms, and in 1949 the People's Republic of China was set up in Peking. Generalissimo Chiang, with his closest advisers and some 2 million troops and civilians, fled to the small island of Taiwan (Formosa), 100 miles off the south-east coast.

The Nationalists in Taiwan (Formosa)

BEFORE TURNING TO a discussion of China under Communist leadership, it is worthwhile to see what has happened in Taiwan since 1949. The island is about the size of the American states of Connecticut and Massachusetts together, with 13,885 square miles, but has about one-third more people: 12 million. Only one-quarter of the land can be farmed, including terraces up the west side of the lofty central mountain range. Taiwan has been formally governed by China since 1683, but it was held by Japan from 1895–1945, after which it was returned to China as a province.

Since its return to China, and especially since 1949, the island has served as a waiting place for the Nationalists who hope to return to mainland China some day. Basic support has come from the United

Abacus, movable type, paper, gunpowder—some of China's many contributions to the world.


SHANGHAI
N
HUANG POO RIVER
PEACE HOTEL
HUANG POO PARK
THE BUND
SZECHUAN ROAD
CITY HALL
NANKING RD. E.
SOOCHOW CREEK
PEOPLE'S PARK
SHANGHAI RACE TRACK
PU HSING PARK
NANKING RAILWAY
NANKING RD. WEST
YENAN CENTAL RD.
SHANGHAI
CHIAOTUNG UNIVERSITY

States through military and economic aid. As a result, the Nationalist government is still the Chinese government represented in the United Nations, it has a large, modern military machine, and the economy is booming. Technical aid, land reform, extension services, and low-cost farm credit have led to steady exports of rice, sugar, pineapple and tea. In industry an increasing amount of hydro-electric power is being harnessed to make cement, fertilizer, lumber, paper, ships, canned foods (especially fish), and wool and rayon fabrics.

Both the economy and the population are rising rapidly; but the question of who will finally control the island is still unfinished business, for to the leaders in Peking, Tokyo, Manila, and Washington—not to mention those in Taipei ("Tie pay")—it is strategically important.

The Pei-hai ("North Sea") joins two other "seas" made from a swamp into a city park 800 years ago. The white marble bridge leads to the White Dagoba, a Tibetan monument 300 years old.

11. BOATING ON THE PEI-HAI, PEKING

Setting Up the Chinese People's Republic

SINCE 1949 THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC has been guided by the Chinese Communist Party. Its leader is Mao Tse-tung ("Mow Tse-doong"), born in 1893, son of a rice farmer in central Hunan Province. Both in high school and later he educated himself by read-

The graceful Lung-hua Pagoda near the International Airport on the western edge of Shanghai is over 1,700 years old. It has been repaired and cleaned up by the government, complete with small bronze bells to ring in the breeze and loudspeakers on the second balcony.

ing Chinese classics and translations of important European books on philosophy, politics and economics. He was one of the founders of the Chinese Communist Party in 1921 and worked with the Nationalist Party in south China until the two parties split in 1927.

After that he went into the mountains in the south, raised an army, and gained control of a small area until he was forced out by Nationalist armies. He then led his troops and companions on the Long March in a great 6,000-mile sweep through the rugged country of the south-west into a poor, dry, eroded mountain village in the north-west. From here, he fought against the Japanese, and after the Sino-Japanese War, against the Nationalists.

The main lesson that Mao and his followers learned in twenty years of underground warfare was to work for the interests of the

Children playing in the school yard during lunch-time at the Peking Experimental Primary School No. 2. Sports and exercises for young people and daily exercises for all city dwellers are rapidly improving health in China.

poor people, especially the peasants, since they are the majority of the population. This meant living with the peasants rather than in the modern cities, learning their needs and gaining their trust. It meant working out a set of beliefs about the rights and wrongs of Chinese society, about how to lift China from poverty and protect it against foreign threats, and how to organize public support at home.

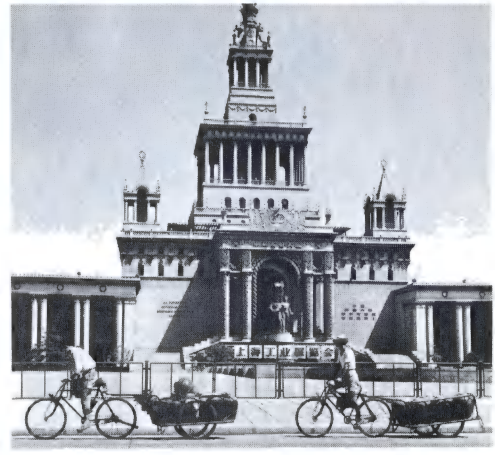
When the Communists came to power, one of their first tasks was to repair the railways and factories, power plants, hospitals, schools and universities, docks, water systems, and so on, so as to get the economy running and produce food, fuel and clothing.

The people, feeling that they were now working for themselves, undertook the job so enthusiastically that within five years China was producing as much grain, coal, iron and steel, and electric power as at any time in the past.

At the same time a great effort was made to build large dams to control flooding and to increase irrigation. Irrigation water is essential for millions of farmers on the plains, since the rainfall is none too reliable. In the first few years great dams were built on the rivers west of Peking, on several branches of the Hwai, and on the mighty Yellow

28. BUSY RIVER LANDING, CANTON

On the Pearl River in southern China small steam launches and other craft are unloaded in the ancient way. The two men in the foreground are carrying a heavy basket-load of stacked pottery bowls.



The new Sino-Soviet Friendship Building in Shanghai makes a strange mark in architectural style. Inside is a permanent exhibition of industrial goods made in China today. On the street heavy jars of some foodstuff or chemical are being moved by human muscle power.

River, long known as "China's Sorrow" because it so often flooded thousands of acres of rich farmland. The dams were built mainly by the work of thousands of people instead of by machines, for China has much more muscle power than machine power. Many of the new dams have also been equipped with power houses so that electricity could be spread to farm areas as well as to towns and cities. Although China still lags far behind the leading industrial nations in the production of hydro-electric power, output rose from 19 billion kilowatt-hours in 1957 to 58 billion in 1962. Other dams and irrigation works have since been built in many parts of the country.

In this factory in T'ien-tsin, Ho-pei, hand-knotted rugs of wool are being inspected, trimmed and repaired. The factory was opened in 1958 with 1,200 workers, a continuation of T'ien-tsin's many years in this craft. Chinese wool is coarse and heavy and therefore is better in rugs than in cloth.

The Chinese YMCA and YWCA central offices in Shanghai. The building is also shared with several public offices and a large restaurant.

Government Planning and Control

THE GOVERNMENT SET UP a series of three five-year plans from 1953–67 to lay the foundations for a prosperous industry and agriculture. By 1955 most of the privately-owned stores and factories, banks, ships and road vehicles had been taken over by government companies. The purpose of such regulation was to make sure that the owners did not take advantage of the public's need for goods and services, and that any profits would go directly to the government to be used for its purposes.

As a result of this reorganization, industrial production rose rapidly from its low point in 1949, and far surpassed any pre-1949 peak. Coal production went from 32 million metric tons in 1949 to 350 million in 1962; steel jumped from 150,000 tons to 12 million; petroleum shot up from 90,000 tons to 6.5 million; and production of tin, bauxite, cement, chemical fertilizers and a host of other industrial goods rose in like fashion.

While some of this great increase came from repairing and improving former plants, much came from building new ones. Most re-

markable were the new iron and steel cities of Pao-t'ou ("Bow toe"), north of the upper bend of the Yellow River, a former Mongol grassland trading town, Hsun-hua, west of Peking, and Ta-yeh ("Da yeh"), 100 miles downstream from Han-k'ou on the south bank of the Yangtze River. Plants in Shanghai and Shen-yang were enlarged, turbines and generators are being made in Harbin, motor vehicles in Ch'ang-ch'un, north of Shen-yang, tractors and farm machinery in Lo-yang and Cheng-chou ("Jung joe"), both south of the lower Yellow River.

Porcelain, still produced in China, was developed there during the Ming Dynasty.

In 1958 there was a strong campaign to get people all over the country to set up iron and steel plants in "backyard furnaces", in order to increase industrial production. While it proved wasteful of human energy, coal and iron, in many cases it led to the discovery of mineral deposits, the improvement of village foundries, and the establishment of modern small-scale iron and steel plants.

Another major achievement of the Communist government has been the extension of railways to link agricultural areas and mineral deposits to new industrial cities.

China is well provided with many of the natural resources needed for industry, particularly coal, iron ore, tin, bauxite (for aluminum), tungsten and antimony (for special steel needs), copper, lead and zinc, and petroleum. In coal, China is usually counted as third in the world, both in deposits and production, most of the coal lying in the eastern quarter north of the Yangtze where it is close to large cities. Iron ore deposits, rated at 8–10 billion tons, are among the largest in the world, most of them close to the coal areas, which means easy iron and

At each lengthy stop the green passenger cars are carefully washed, swept, and dusted by the car attendant. Prizes are offered for the best clean-up job, as well as the best service on the trip. The second is the dining car.

The new Peking railway station can seat 17,000 people in its seventeen waiting rooms. It has four moving stairways and several restaurants. A passenger can travel by train from Canton in south China through Peking, the USSR, and Europe to England with a few changes.

U.
S.
S.
BUDDHIST SHRINE
MON
STONE TORTOISE DATES FROM GENGHIS KHAN
CAVES OF A THOUSAND BUDDHAS
URUMCHI
SINGKIANG AUTONOMOU
VIGHUR REGION
KANSU
KAZAKH HORSEMAN
TSINGHAI
TIBET
HUANG
YANGTZE KIANG
POTOLA, HOME OF THE DALAI LAMA
LHASA
POWER DAM ON YANGTZE
WATER POWER
CH'ENG-TU
INDIA
NEPAL
SIKKIM
BHUTAN
YANGTSE
RICE
K'UN-MING
YUNNAN
RICE
BAY OF BENGAL
BURMA
LAOS
THAILAND
CHINA
PRODUCTS AND POINTS OF INTEREST

R.
OLIAN
PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC
FLOUR MILL AND
MONGOLIAN GER
(HOME)
CAMELS USED
AS FARM ANIMALS
SOVIET
VICTORY
COLUMN
FROM
IN SHEN-YANG
(FORMERY
MUKDEN)
WHEAT
COAL
HEILUNGKIANG
WHEAT
COAL
HARBIN
WHEAT
COAL
HEAT
CH'ANG-CHUN
KIRIN
WHEAT
CHEMICALS
WATER
POWER
COAL
SHENYANG
COAL
WATER POWER
LIAONING
WHEAT
CORN
STEEL
STEEL
WHEAT
CHEMICALS
KOREA
WOMAN
WELDER
COAL
HU-HO-HAO-TE
PEKING
COAL
HOPEH
TIENTSIN
WHEAT
STEEL
SMELTERS
NINGSIA
HUI AUTON-
OMOUS
REGION
STEEL
SHANSI
HUANG
HO
WHEAT
SHANTUNG
YELLOW
SEA
WHEAT
SHENSI
WATER
POWER
LOYANG
SIAN
WHEAT
HONAN
SILK WORKER
WITH MULBERRY
LEAVES AND
SILKWORMS
CHEMICALS
KIANGSU
WHEAT
RICE
RIANG
KOREA
STRAIT
JAPAN
ZECHWAN
KIANG
COAL
HUNGKING
HUPEH
WHEAT
RICE
WUHAN
STEEL
STEEL
ANHWE
YANGTSE
STEEL
NANKING
SHANGHAI
RICE
HANGCHOW
CHENANG
RICE
EAST
CHINA
SEA
HUNAN
RICE
RICE
COAL
KIANGSI
RICE
EICHOW
STEEL
WORKER
RICE
FUKIEN
RICE
SWANGSI CHUANG
RICE
AUTONOMOUS
RICE
REGION
RICE
KWANGTUNG
RICE
CANTON
RICE
TAIWAN
SOUTH CHINA
SEA
COMMERCIAL
JUNK

steel manufacture. The two largest new iron-steel plants, Pao-t'ou and Ta-yeh, have been built as the result of opening up large new iron-ore areas nearby. According to Chinese data, the country's reserves of tungsten, antimony, and tin are the biggest in the world. Large oil-fields have been discovered since 1949 as a result of extensive geological surveys, but since most are in the far north-western desert areas close to the USSR, it has been costly to maintain workers and transport the oil into the more settled parts of the country. Probably other sources of petroleum have been found, but we do not have much information about them. At any rate, the Chinese claim that they are now

Inspecting finished washbasins in the Sian enamel factory before dispatching them to stores. Millions of Chinese have their own because of the general lack of running water in most homes. Those who travel in the countryside generally carry a basin.

This former soldier is removing an enamel washbasin from a baking furnace. The factory was opened in 1951 in Sian, Shenhsi, by disbanded soldiers and has become a model small industry because of its good products.

The Yang-ch'eng ("City of Rams") Hotel in Canton was newly built for foreign visitors to the Canton Trade Fair and other groups. It has over 1,000 rooms, full air conditioning, and central heating. Such conveniences are not yet common in China.

producing enough for present needs, but they probably are using it very carefully. The manufacture of aluminum is another new industry, concentrated in the north-east where the bauxite clays occur.

Using the large new supplies of electric power, a modern chemical industry has been established to produce fertilizers and man-made textiles. As with the manufacture of heavy machinery, locomotives and motor vehicles, such industries are almost completely new to China. While some have been built with help from the USSR and other Communist countries, much has been accomplished by Chinese engineers and workmen. This alone has done a great deal to encourage the people's confidence in themselves and in their leaders, and in their ability to make their country a great industrial power.

Improving Agriculture

To escape from the poverty and hopelessness prevailing in pre-revolutionary days, the development of agriculture was even more vital than that of industry. For in a typical village the landlords owned most of the good farmland, while the farmers rented tiny plots and paid exorbitant rents, up to forty per cent of the value of a year's

8. FARMHOUSE AND RICE FIELD, TIENTSIN

Soil of the North China Plain pounded between two boards forms a well-insulated farmhouse on this farm commune. In a few soggy places in this area the long, hot summer permits rice to grow.

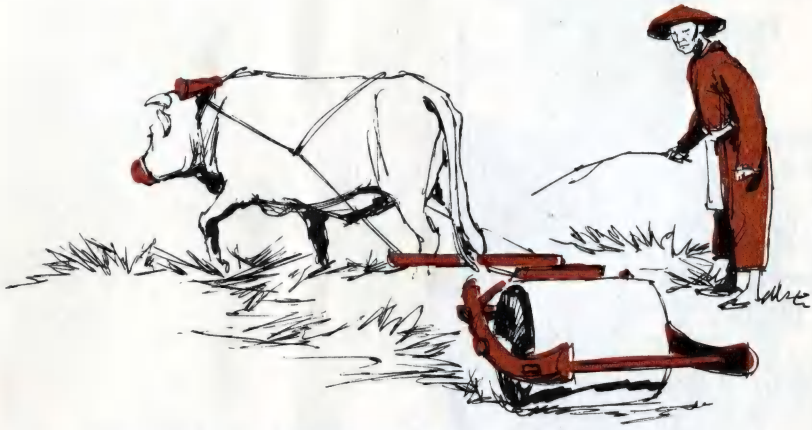
After the rice is harvested in late summer, fields are cleared for another crop such as wheat or vegetables. Farther south a second rice crop is often grown. The water buffalo is the farmer's tractor.

29. RICE FIELD, CENTRAL CHINA

harvest. They were burdened with debts from generation to generation, and never had either time or money to invest in means to increase their productivity, such as better seeds, tools and cultivation methods, and adequate fertilizers.

One of the first things the Communist government did when it gained control was to abolish large landholdings and distribute land

to the landless. But nevertheless life is not easy for the farmers, and eighty per cent of the Chinese people are farmers. If all the farmland could be divided so that everyone received the same amount, each Chinese would have 0.4 acre, while in the United States each person would have five times as much: 2 acres. Or, if all the people were divided evenly according to the number of square miles of farmland, in China there would be 1,574, compared with 300 people per square mile in the United States.



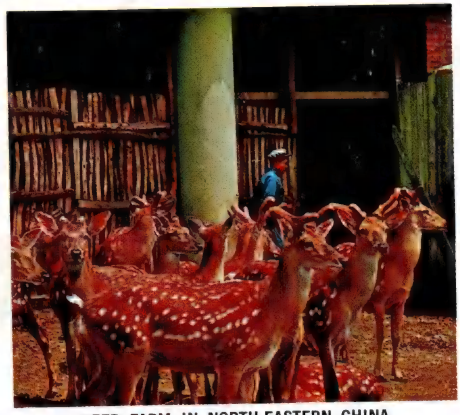
Ancient agricultural practices are still used to harvest China's crops.

However, in China much of the farmland produces more than one crop each year, equal to adding one-third more acres. This is possible because much of eastern China has a fairly long growing season. Winter temperatures range from −17° F. in northern Manchuria to 30° in the North China Plain and southern Manchuria, to 40° along the Yangtze, to 60° in the south. And furthermore, most of the rain falls in summer, in the growing season, and amounts vary from twenty-five inches in Manchuria to more than eighty inches in the south.

But even with hard work there are often not enough food and other

crops to satisfy everyone. If the weather is bad, as it was in the years 1959, 1960 and 1961, people just tighten their belts and use less, hoping there will be no famine, that the weather will improve soon, or that grain will be brought to their region from some luckier part of the country or from abroad. During those three years China suffered very severe droughts in both the rice-growing south and the wheat-

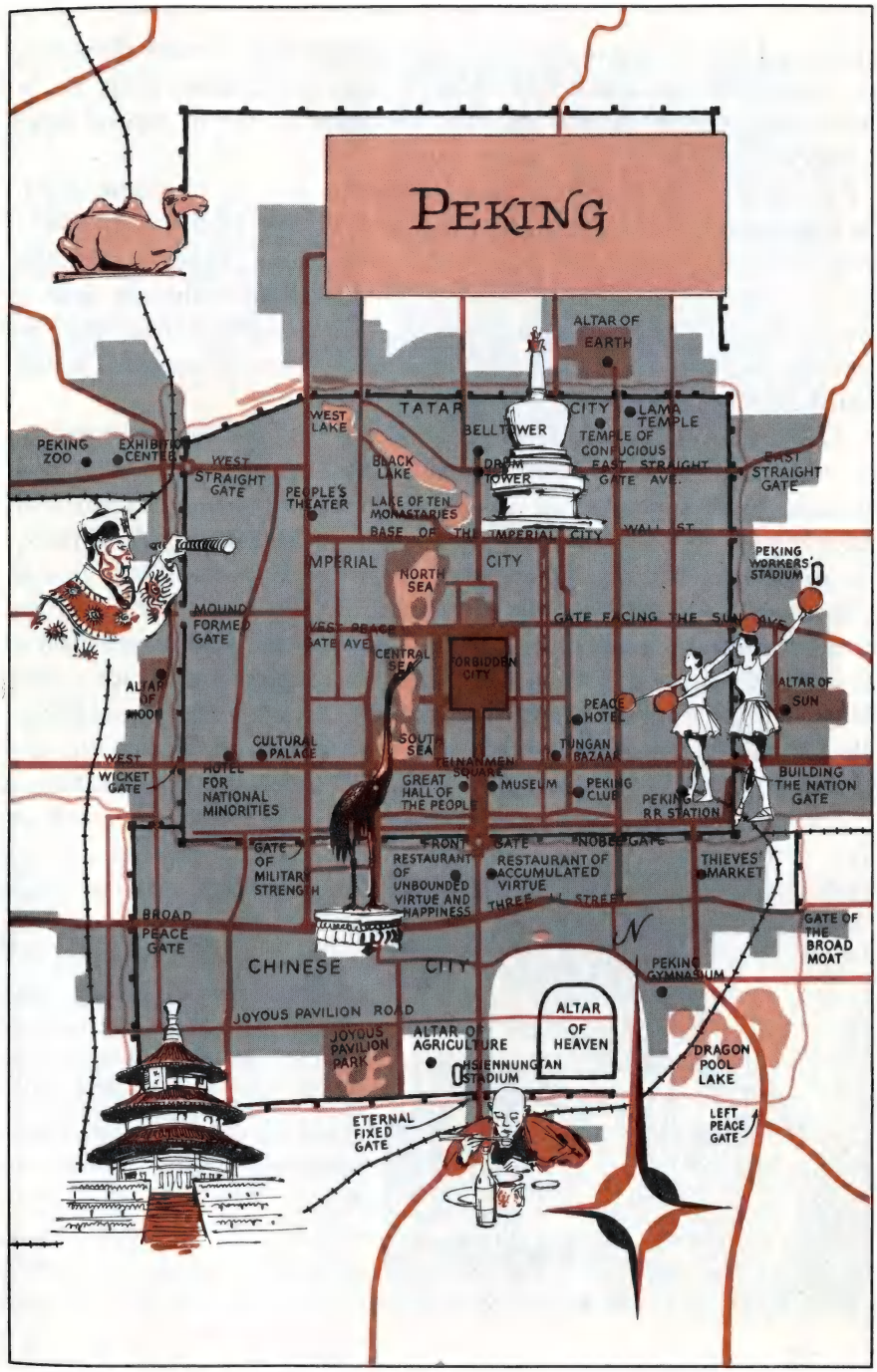
The government runs this unusual farm to produce deer antlers. They are cut off in the spring, ground up, and swallowed in tea as medicine by those who believe in it.



21. DEER FARM IN NORTH-EASTERN CHINA

10. PRIZED TEA GARDENS NEAR HANG-CHOU

Delicate Lung Ching ("Dragon Well") tea grows on terraced slopes west of Hang-chou on the south-east China coast. The trees are kept short for easy picking of the leaves.


PEKING
ALTAR OF EARTH
TATAR CITY
LAMA TEMPLE
WEST LAKE
BELL TOWER
TEMPLE OF CONFUCIOUS
PEKING ZOO
EXHIBITION CENTER
WEST STRAIGHT GATE
BLACK LAKE
DRUM TOWER
EAST STRAIGHT GATE
PEOPLE'S THEATER
LAKE OF TEN MONASTARIES
IMPERIAL CITY
PEKING WORKERS' STADIUM
NORTH SEA
MOUND
FORMED GATE
CENTRAL SEA
FORBIDDEN CITY
ALTAR OF SUN
PEACE HOTEL
CULTURAL PALACE
SOUTH SEA
TUNGAN BAZAAR
WEST WICKET GATE
HOTEL FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES
TIENANMEN SQUARE
GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE
MUSEUM
PEKING CLUB
PEKING RR STATION
BUILDING THE NATION GATE
GATE OF MILITARY STRENGTH
FRONT GATE
RESTAURANT OF UNBOUNDED VIRTUE AND HAPPINESS
RESTAURANT OF ACCUMULATED VIRTUE
THREE STREET
THIEVES MARKET
BROAD PEACE GATE
GATE OF THE BROAD MOAT
CHINESE CITY
PEKING GYMNASIUM
JOYOUS PAVILION ROAD
ALTAR OF HEAVEN
JOYOUS PAVILION PARK
ALTAR OF AGRICULTURE
HSIENNUNGTAN STADIUM
DRAGON POOL LAKE
ETERNAL FIXED GATE
LEFT PEACE GATE

growing north, but as a result of tight government control there was no widespread starvation. This showed what the Chinese could do in hard times, and it also showed how important it was to expand farm production rapidly.

One means of increasing farm production was to eliminate rents. A land tax of about twenty-five per cent of the value of the main crop was established, to be paid to the government. Then in 1951 the government announced that farmers should help each other by sharing work. This would raise production even more and get them used to working in groups. This was the Mutual-Aid Teams Movement, which lasted until 1953.

That same year the government decided that the farmers were to be organized into co-operative farms by pooling their land, tools and animals. Such shared effort would make farming more efficient and force farmers to learn how to work together for long-term goals. Finally, in 1958 some 700,000 co-operative farms were pooled into 24,000 communes (increased in 1963 to between 60,000 and 70,000) set up as committee-run units. These were originally designed as collections of self-sufficient villages averaging 23,000 people to care for about fifteen square miles of farmland, with men, women and older children divided into various-sized work teams run on military lines.

Wu-lao-ts'un ("Five Old Villages") was formerly a terrible slum area in Nanking. Filth and disease claimed many lives. It is today a model area where photos of the old days on the glass bulletin boards remind residents to keep it clean.

The farmer bangs the heads of rice stalks on the rim of the wooden tub, inside the screen of large reed mats. Machines would save much time at this busy season.

23. THRESHING RICE, YANGTZE DELTA

Everyone was to eat his main food in common mess halls without paying for it, and to receive a small wage each month according to work done. Women were to be freed from family chores, while nurseries and old folks' homes took care of the dependents. It was stated that dormitories were or would be built to house men and women separately to break up family life and concentrate effort on the fields. Also, communes were expected to run their own schools, clubs, clinics and light industries (especially making fertilizer), to build irrigation canals and to do forestry and land reclamation. The idea was to organize farmers into fully self-sufficient communities under their own elected officers and Party supervision.

The communes are still going on, but with important changes as the government has learned what people can best do together and what separately. Also, farm conditions vary from place to place, so that needs are different. The dormitory idea did not last long, for people preferred family life, although some meals are taken in the common mess halls. However, the greatest changes have been in assigning responsibility for work and in permitting commune members to farm their own gardens. From the gardens and from spare-time industry farmers now get produce to sell in nearby markets.

Farmers husking corn at the Ming Chien People's Commune in T'ai-yuan, Shan-hsi, are using their new electrical machine. Despite slow hand feeding and clearing away, this is an improvement over husking the entire crop by hand. The husks are used as winter fuel.

A mechanical cotton picker has not yet appeared in the Ming Chien People's Commune in Shan-hsi, so slow hand picking goes on. Most Chinese, like these farm women, wear cotton padded clothing which is warm though bulky in the dry, cold winter.

Again, just as with the "backyard furnace" movement, the farmers have made some progress through their own experience, as the government has pushed them into trying something new. Where communes have made profits, they have been able to buy farm equipment, and members have bought bicycles, clothing and similar everyday articles otherwise beyond their reach. Will there be further great changes in the life of the farmers? Probably the answer lies with what the Party leaders see for China's future, and this may rest, in turn, with the international situation.

Certainly the results achieved so far have been spectacular in the three leading crops, rice, wheat and cotton. Rice production rose from about 49 million tons in 1949 to 85 million in 1963; wheat increased

from 14 million tons to 31 million; and cotton went from 444,000 tons to 2.4 million. Furthermore, productivity in yield per unit of land has been equally spectacular. Yields in pounds per acre in 1949 and 1962 are: rice, 1,688 and more than 3,000; wheat, 573 and over 1,000; cotton, 143 and 400.

The re-distribution of land and the abolition of burdensome rents undoubtedly acted as powerful incentives to increasing production. But equally important have been the government projects which have expanded acreage through conservation, reclamation, and the promotion of more multiple cropping. More irrigation, afforestation, water and soil management, and the distribution of better seeds, fertilizers and farm implements have also helped. Other factors include improved storage facilities and marketing methods, and control of plant pests.

Taoist teachings, originated during the Chou Dynasty, still find their place in Chinese life.

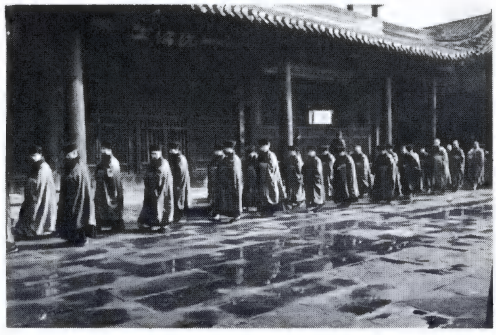
A New Government System

COMMUNIST PARTY CONTROL in China is far-reaching; in fact, there seems no part of life that is beyond it. The official government rests on the National People's Congress. This is elected indirectly, that is to say, by voters in the villages and cities who choose members of their local congresses. These in turn choose members of the twenty-

seven provincial congresses, who then elect about one-third of the members of the National People's Congress. However other groups, such as members of the armed forces, national minority groups living in the remote mountainous areas, and Chinese who have come back from abroad, also send delegates to the NPC. The 3,000 members are supposed to meet for about three weeks each year, and after four years they decide how many congressmen should be elected from each group for the next four years.

During the three weeks of actual meetings in Peking the delegates are busy discussing proposed laws and official reports on the basis of their own experience in their own areas. They elect the Chairman of the country and two Vice-Chairmen; the present Chairman is Liu Shao-ch'i, while Mao Tse-tung is Chairman of the Communist Party. They approve the budget for the coming year, and choose certain high officials as well as a Standing Committee of about eighty members to serve for the whole year. The system is much like that in the USSR, but the Congress members believe that they bring to their task the ideas of a wide range of people.

The Communist Party parallels the National People's Congress with a National Party Congress, and this matching goes right down to the province and county levels. In addition, the Party operates such organizations as the Young Pioneers (boys and girls from nine to fourteen years), the Youth League (fifteen to twenty-five), and unions. It encourages groups of three or more members in all organizations,



Monks in a Taoist temple. While the People's Republic has preserved some temples, most monks have either left or taken up work of some sort to support themselves.

Schoolgirls playing games in the garden of a former wealthy British businessman's home in Shanghai. It is now a children's education and recreation site. The red scarves mark the girls as Young Pioneers.

17. AT THE CHILDREN'S PALACE, SHANGHAI

14. BEFORE A PARADE IN PEKING

Young people line up for one of the many parades and public demonstrations that are common in Peking, China's capital city. A white-coated policeman stands on duty.

including the armed forces, to study Communism together, to teach others and to keep a tight check on public opinion. The local Party is even supposed to be consulted by two people planning to get married to make sure that the marriage will not interfere with their work and therefore with the progress of the country!

To citizens of democratic countries these things appear burdensome, and they probably do to many people in China. However, there are several means used to limit the power of the officials. First, the Party encourages criticism of the way in which tasks are carried out, though not criticism of the system or of Party control itself. Newspapers publish letters questioning or challenging officials' actions, and in some cases publish their replies. Second, constant meetings—sometimes every day

Chinese art and literature flourished under the T'ang and Sung dynasties.

or evening after work—are supposed to uncover problems by frank discussion. Such meetings take place in all kinds of groups, including meetings among officials. Third, officials found to be untrustworthy or inconsiderate of the people may be sent to work at some lowly task, or out to a village in order to remind them that they are to work for others. Fourth, the government has often sent people at all levels to prison where they work and study not for a fixed period of time but until they convince the authorities that they are truly "better" people. Fifth, there are some reports of farmers and city workers actually re-

Railway stations have posters urging people to work hard, loudspeakers for patriotic music, and flower gardens maintained by the railway workers. In this large poster, Mao Tse-tung tells young people, "Our hopes rest on you".

belling against unreasonable orders, and their complaints have caused changes to be made.

China as a World Power

In 1950 the Chinese and the Russians formed an alliance for mutual protection; but only eight years later, despite economic help from the Soviet Union and other Communist countries in Europe, the Sino-Soviet alliance began to come apart, and the break has been steadily widening.

24. KUN-MING LAKE, SUMMER PALACE

This man-made lake outside Peking covers one square mile. Instead of boating parties for courtiers, it now offers picnics, boating, swimming, and winter ice skating for anyone.

The Sino-Soviet Friendship Building in Shanghai contains this display of trucks and heavy machinery now being made in that city. Few of these products were manufactured in China before 1949. A statue of Mao Tse-tung stands in the background.

In the world arena China appears to have two primary goals. The first is to challenge the power and leadership of the United States. The second is to challenge the power and leadership of the Soviet Union in the Communist realm, and in the developing nations where new forms of government and new economic systems are evolving. China's explosion of an atomic bomb in October, 1964, was just one more proof of what a poor, backward country can achieve in less than twenty years, if the people are willing to work hard. Indeed, China's achievements since the revolution show that it must be recognized as one of the great powers of our time.

Uighur, Kirghiz, Golok, Kazakh, Tibetan, Mongol and Chinese—some of the many types of China's inhabitants.

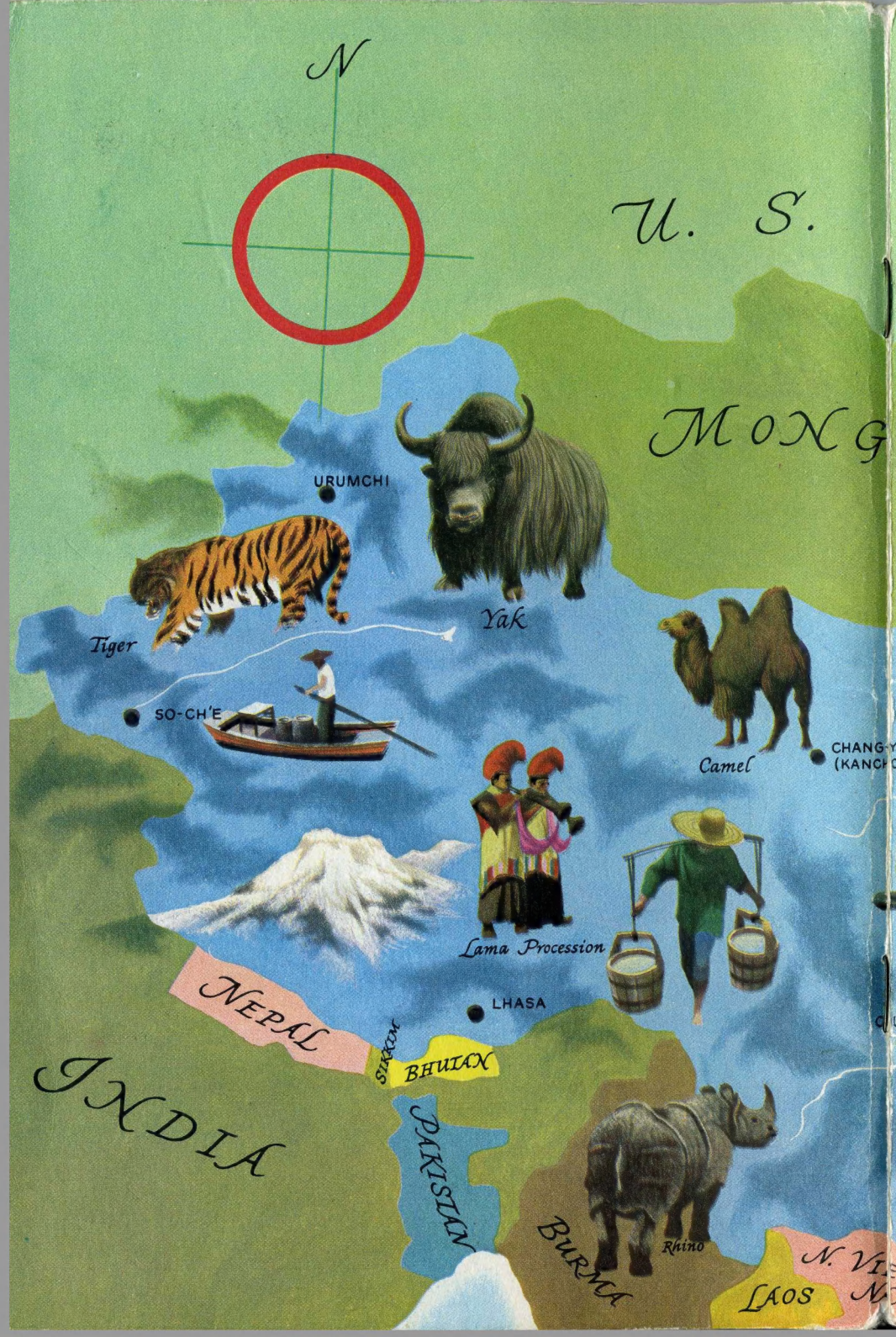
Some Important Dates in Chinese History

c. 1750–1050 B.C. Shang Dynasty. Primitive agricultural state under a king, capital at An-yang, Ho-nan, north of the Yellow River. Worship of ancestors and local spirits. Beautiful work in bronze.

c. 1050–250 B.C.	Chou Dynasty. Conquest of Shang state and introduction of worship of Heaven. Feudal period and expansion of population into central China with advances in irrigation. Capital shifted from earlier base at Hsi-an, Shen-si, east of Yellow River, to Lo-yang, Ho-nan. Age of great philosophers in period of petty warfare.
c. 551–479? B.C.	Confucius, the great sage, in a period of several other famous scholars.
221–207 B.C.	Ch'in Dynasty. First emperor, Shih Huang Ti, governed directly instead of through nobles. Built good roads, linked up older parts of the Great Wall into one solid barrier of about 1,500 miles, standardized the written language. Capital near Hsi-an, Shen-si.
202 B.C.–220 A.D.	Han Dynasty. Began state examinations for official positions based on the teachings of Confucius, a system which lasted until 1905. China expanded to about its present limit in central Asia to protect the trade routes.
100–200 A.D.	Buddhism brought to China from north-western India by missionaries along the central Asian trade routes.
618–907	T'ang Dynasty. Steady contact between China and distant peoples in central Asia by land, and with Japan, south Asia, and the Middle East by sea.
1275–92	Marco Polo of Venice visited China and served as an official during the Yuan Dynasty. The story of his travels was long considered to be full of exaggeration, but it stimulated many others to travel in search of a route to Cathay (China).
1368–1644	Ming period, noteworthy for its achievements in the arts and architecture.
1557	Macao, a small island off the south China coast at the mouth of the Canton River, was granted to Portugal.

1582	Father Matteo Ricci brought Roman Catholicism to China.
1689	China and Russia signed the Treaty of Nerchinsk giving to China the Amur River and all its tributaries.
1807	Dr. Robert Morrison, a Scottish missionary, brought Protestantism to China.
1839–42	Opium War between China and England opened China to British trade. Equal treatment by other powers in China soon followed.
1850–77	Four major rebellions against the Ch'ing Dynasty, the most serious being the T'ai-p'ing Rebellion, 1850–64, in central and southern China.
1894–95	Defeat of China by Japan.
10 October, 1911	"Double Tenth": overthrow of the Ch'ing Dynasty by an armed revolt in Wu-ch'ang, Hu-pei, began the Chinese Revolution.
1916–28	China divided by many regional warlords, although there was a nominal republican government in Peking.
4 May, 1919	Students at Peking University led a mass demonstration against government corruption and national weakness and against Japan and other countries.
1921	Chinese Communist Party founded in Shanghai.
1924	Reorganization of the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) under Dr. Sun Yat-sen in Canton.
1925	Death of Dr. Sun in Peking.
1926–27	Chiang Kai-shek led the Nationalist Party on the Northern Expedition to the Yangtze Valley and began the new Nationalist government in Nanking.
1931	Japan seized the north-eastern provinces north of the Great Wall and set up a Chinese puppet emperor over "Manchukuo" (Manchu country).
1931–34	Communists under Mao Tse-tung proclaimed the "Chinese Soviet Republic" in south Chiang-hsi Province, in south-eastern China, until forced out

	by the Nationalist armies. Mao led the Communists to Yen-an, Shen-si, in the dry north-west, after a fighting retreat of some 6,000 miles on the famous Long March.
1937–45	The Sino-Japanese War, continued through World War II with aid mostly from the United States, until the Japanese surrendered.
1945	China recognized as one of the major world powers with a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.
1946–49	Widespread civil war in which the Communists under Mao Tse-tung drove the Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek off the mainland to take refuge in Taiwan (Formosa).
1 October, 1949	People's Republic of China proclaimed in Peking, with Mao Tse-tung as Chairman. Diplomatic relations between China and the U.S. broken.
1950	Treaty of Friendship and Alliance between China and the USSR signed in Moscow primarily for protection against "Japan or any country allied with Japan".
1950	People's Republic of China sent troops to North Korea to halt the advance of United Nations forces (mostly American) north to the Chinese-Korean boundary.
1954	Approval of China's first national constitution.
1958	The Great Leap Forward: speed-up of industrialization and collectivization of agriculture in communes; beginning of the open break between the People's Republic of China and the USSR.
1964	People's Republic of China exploded its first nuclear bomb at its test site in the north-western province of Ch'ing-hai.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